

Finally, I wish to salute the families, scout leaders, and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital who have provided these young women with continued support and encouragement.

It is with great pride that I submit a list of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award recipients from the State of Maryland, and I ask that the list be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF THE NATION'S
CAPITAL

Breton Aulick, Rebecca Bensur, Jacquelyn Blaser, Brianna Blaser, Kristen Bowen, Arianne Boylan, Christine Chase, Heather Ann Church, Kimberly Crowder, Margaret Eaton-Sainers, Carlita Fletcher, Jessica Gaines, Brianna Gibson, Kathleen Henley, Kishuana Jarmon, Gretchen Kallemyn.

Lyndsay Madden, Grace McCann, Jennifer McKelvey, Jennifer Miller, Laura Murray, Linda Jean Rinko, Janis Sanders, Alea Lu Schroeder, Jana Siskind, Kelsi Stembel, Andrea Stuart, Tanya Wessells, Denise White.●

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE
CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to commend 25 outstanding students from West Warwick High School in West Warwick, RI, who will be visiting Washington later this month to compete in the national finals of the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program.

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with it, the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program is among the most extensive educational programs in the country, developed to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply these principals to contemporary situations.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history. We hear so much these days about growing apathy and ignorance among young people about our history and governmental traditions. In my view, programs such as this can go a long way to combat these ills. It is heartening to see young Rhode Islanders taking such an active and participatory interest in public affairs.

Mr. President, you may be interested to know that West Warwick High School has an outstanding track record in the "We The People . . . The Citizens And The Constitution" program. The West Warwick team has won the Rhode Island State competition for 7 of the past 10 years.

I am very proud of Jamie Amaral, Mary Asselin, Jonathan Bassi, Justin

Broz, John Caressimo, Brian Carr, Andrew Constanza, Krystle Couto, Bethany DeBlois, Candice Felske, John Johnson, Jonathan Juneau, Jamie Kullberg, Kristin Larocque, Gina Musto, Meghan O'Brien, Ryan O'Grady, Stephanie Paquet, Erica Ricci, Hillary Sisson, Derek Tevyaw, Kevin Willette, Kristen Wolslegel, Man Yu, and Debra Zenofsky for making it to the national finals. I applaud this terrific group of young men and women for their hard work and perseverance. Also, Mr. President, I want to congratulate Michael Trofi, a fine teacher who deserves so much credit for guiding the West Warwick High School team to the national finals.

As Mr. Trofi and this fine group of West Warwick High School students prepare for their trip to Washington to compete in the national finals on April 26-28, I want to congratulate them for what they have already achieved and wish them the best of luck in the final competition. These students, with the guidance of Mr. Trofi, have learned what our Nation is all about and what countless men and women have fought and died to protect. No matter what the outcome of the contest is, they have each earned the greatest prize of all: Knowledge.●

SUPPORTING NETDAY

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to alert this body to a very special event, which took place this past weekend, called NetDay. NetDay, which began in 1996, is a unique partnership between the public, private and educational communities with the common goal of fitting K-12 classrooms with the technological infrastructure needed for the 21st century.

In the beginning of this year, on behalf of myself, Senator JOHN WARNER, Senator CONRAD BURNS, Senator CHARLES ROBB, Senator PATTY MURRAY, and Senator BARBARA BOXER, I introduced Sense of the Senate Resolution 51, celebrating the success of NetDay activities and encouraging all schools to participate in 1997 NetDay activities, including the projects which took place this past weekend. As I did in February of this year, when I introduced the NetDay resolution, I would like to again commend the organizers and volunteers of NetDay, an excellent example of individuals creating a stronger community with the goal of increasing the quality of their schools.

The success of this weekend was impressive. Although it is still too early to cite official statistics of Saturday's event, NetDay organizers have stated that "schools up and down the State, in isolated towns in the north, farming towns in the central valley, and hundreds in urban communities all participated in NetDay." In addition, the 38 empowerment zone schools of the Los Angeles Unified School District were involved in NetDay activities and future planning. Last year alone, NetDay was successful in bringing out more

than 100,000 Americans, including 50,000 Californians to volunteer in their neighborhood schools. These students, teachers, parents, and friends of the schools, came to wire classrooms and school libraries throughout the Nation. Thousands of individuals accomplished their goal to install communications cables, connect wires and switches to upgrading their schools for the 21st century.

The success of NetDay is significant. Last year, over 25,000 elementary, junior and senior high schools were wired. I expect these numbers to dramatically increase as NetDay organizer compile results from Saturday's activities. Throughout the United States, volunteers climbed ladders and got on their hands and knees to install the wiring infrastructure needed to connect thousands of elementary and secondary school classrooms with contemporary technology.

As I have mentioned in earlier floor speeches, NetDay began in California on March 9, 1996. The term was coined by cofounders John Gage of Sun Microsystems, one of the Nation's leading technology companies and Michael Kaufman of KQED, a California public broadcasting station. Mr. Gage and Mr. Kaufman saw this initiative as a day where hundreds of Californians came out to an "old fashioned barn raising for the modern technology age."

Just as volunteers would gather in the Nation's early years, with neighbor helping neighbor, to build homes, barns or community buildings, California's NetDay volunteers gather in support of neighborhood schools. Amazingly, and to their surprise, NetDay succeeded in one year in wiring 3,500 schools efficiently and cost-effectively, establishing and improving our classroom information infrastructure up and down the State.

However, as our classrooms continue to modernize and improve their technological infrastructure there is much work to be accomplished, both in California and throughout the Nation. Consider the following:

According to the Department of Education half of our K-12 schools lack full access to advance technology in the classroom.

Ninety-five percent of those K-12 schools who want to but are not yet wired, do not have the needed budgetary resources or organized volunteer base to wire their schools.

Rural areas and regions with high poverty continue to have less access to advanced educational technology compared to their suburban and urban counterparts.

These few points illustrate that there is still much to be done in our children's classrooms. NetDay organizers are committed to working with underserved neighborhoods and ensuring that the appropriate resources, both in volunteers and computer wiring kits, are channels to these communities. In addition, this year's NetDay will focus on communities that did not fully benefit from last years initial set of

projects and activities. In all, NetDay continues to save schools and taxpayers millions of dollars in educational technology startup costs, while training and equipping teachers with the knowledge needed to be a successful and integral part of the technical educational experience.

According to NetDay organizers, this year's relationship between private business, the labor community, and neighborhood schools is stronger than ever. Business sponsors and corporate volunteers will be instrumental in making NetDay a successful reality. The small, and large, companies continue to supply the project the needed computer and wiring equipment, and have also encouraged their employees to work with their children's or neighborhood schools. In addition, the labor community will continue to go into schools across America, where they are committed to work with private partners in ensuring that their local schools have the educational infrastructure needed for a well trained work force for the 21st century. The most valuable asset of NetDay continues to be the commitment of thousands of volunteers who will work in their community schools.

As the communities throughout America celebrate their NetDay accomplishments and prepare for future activities for this year and beyond, it is my honor to once again, recognize the NetDay cofounders, Michael Kaufman and John Gage, and organizers, Ann Murphy and Teresa Wann, and the dozens of corporate sponsors and business partners, and the thousands of students, teachers, parents, and school administrators for their achievement. The success and commitment they have shown to America and my State of California should be applauded.

My colleague and cochair on the U.S. Senate information technology caucus, Senator JOHN WARNER, Senator CONRAD BURNS of Montana, Senator CHARLES ROBB of Virginia, Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington, and my California colleague Senator BARBARA BOXER join me in supporting the advancement of educational technology by sponsoring this resolution. Together, we urge our Senate colleagues to affirm congressional support for preparing U.S. classrooms with the needed technological infrastructure for the 21st century.

I invite my Senate colleagues to join this public-private partnership effort and I congratulate all the volunteers who participated in NetDay 1997 and encourage them to keep up the commendable and exemplary work.●

ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE-AMERICANS, INC.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable organization in my home State of Michigan, the Association of Chinese Americans, Inc. The ACA, which promotes the presence of and provides

services to Chinese Americans in the Greater Detroit area, is celebrating its 25th anniversary on April 26, 1997.

In 1972, Michigan residents of Chinese descent formed the Association of Chinese Americans with the motto "Embracing the hopes and dreams of Chinese in the United States." The ACA became the first chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans, a national group which helps Chinese-Americans preserve and promote their cultural heritage in the United States.

Many people in metropolitan Detroit have benefited from the ACA's activities, which includes physical and mental health services and legal counseling for people in need. The ACA also sponsors social and educational activities for Chinese-American youth, such as dance troupes, camping trips, and college scholarships.

The ACA plays an important role in preserving and promoting elements of Chinese culture in the United States, helping to keep Chinese art, language, and traditions alive within the Chinese-American community. One of America's great strengths is its diversity, and the ACA helps to remind us all of the valuable additions Chinese-Americans have made to American culture.

The ACA has encouraged Chinese-Americans to participate in the electoral process, and has helped give Chinese-Americans a strong voice in our political system. Members of the ACA frequently share their opinions, insights, and knowledge of issues which affect the Chinese-American community with elected officials at all levels of government.

The Association of Chinese-Americans has been effective in furthering the hopes and dreams of Chinese-Americans. I am proud to have such a vibrant and important organization in Michigan, and I invite my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to the men and women of the ACA on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.●

[At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.]

HONORING THE LIFE OF LYMAN SPITZER, JR

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding scientist and visionary, Mr. Lyman Spitzer Jr., who recently died in Princeton, NJ at the age of 82. Mr. Spitzer was one of those rare individuals who not only made history, he actually changed history.

Spitzer was a theoretician of astrophysics and plasma physics who inspired the Hubble Space telescope and a myriad of orbiting observatories. His scientific contributions began decades ago, when he played a leading role in the development of sonar during World War II.

After World War II, Spitzer's attention turned to what would become his lifelong dream and his lifelong work,

the Hubble telescope. The most complex undertaking in unmanned space study, the telescope can peer into the deepest reaches of space. And it was only Lyman Spitzer's vision, advocacy and tenacity which made this dream a reality. He shepherded the project from, as the New York Times noted, "a glimpse in his own eye in 1947," to its liftoff in 1990.

Mr. President, Mr. Spitzer's interests included all aspects of astronautics. He was the catalyst of the Copernicus Orbiting Astronomical Observatory, an ultraviolet predecessor of Hubble that NASA launched in 1972. He was also a pioneer of the effort to use nuclear fusion as a clean and limitless source of energy. And Spitzer was the founding director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, where he worked until the day he died.

Lyman Spitzer enhanced our vision of the universe, increased our knowledge of the stars and expanded our own horizons. He is an outstanding example of the difference a single individual can make. Others may continue his work in Princeton, but no one will ever be able to replace him.●

CENTRAL MARYLAND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, each year an elite group of young women rise above the ranks of their peers and confront the challenge of attaining the Girl Scouts of the United States of America's highest rank in scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and applaud young women from the State of Maryland who are this year's recipients of this most prestigious and time honored award.

These outstanding young women are to be commended on their extraordinary commitment and dedication to their families, their friends, their communities, and to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

The qualities of character, perseverance, and leadership which enabled them to reach this goal will also help them to meet the challenges of the future. They are our inspiration for today and our promise for tomorrow.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of this award from the State of Maryland. They are the best and the brightest and serve as an example of character and moral strength for us all to imitate and follow.

Finally, I wish to salute the families, scout leaders, and the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland who have provided these young women with continued support and encouragement.

It is with great pride that I submit a list of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award recipients from the State of Maryland, and I ask that the list be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND

Claire Adams, Laurie Lee Albright, Lisa Birkenheuer, Lyndsay Braswell, Jennifer